



## Washington Update

June 24, 2005

Welcome to my Washington Update, an e-mail newsletter for the constituents of California's 29th Congressional District. Through these quick-read updates, I hope to keep you informed of progress being made in Washington, D.C. and at home on public policy issues of interest to our communities.

---

---

### Schiff Secures \$1 Million for Griffith Observatory

Congressman Adam Schiff secured \$1 million in federal funds for the Griffith Observatory. The money will broaden opportunities for young people to visit this local treasure and will expand educational programs within the Observatory. "I am pleased that the House agreed to my request for federal help to expand the observatory," said Schiff. "This funding will help bring the outer reaches of the universe closer to our entire region of young people and help them reach for the stars."

The Observatory is currently undergoing a major renovation and expansion that will feature a new planetarium theater when it reopens in May, 2006. Schiff previously secured an additional \$2 million for educational programs and exhibits on astronomy and space exploration. "In this global age, we must do all that we can to encourage students to study science and technology. Griffith Observatory is an extraordinary learning facility and a valuable tool in encouraging kids to pursue careers in the sciences," said Schiff.

These funds will be included in a federal spending bill that passed Congress earlier today. It still must be approved by the Senate and signed by the President.

### Schiff Introduces Legislation on Guantanamo Detainee Procedures

Since September 11<sup>th</sup>, Congressman Schiff has become a leader on many of the difficult national security and legal issues in the war on terrorism. This week he introduced a comprehensive bill that provides a legal framework to process the detainees in Guantanamo Bay. This bill would require release and repatriation or initiation of formal charges within two years for every detainee unless the Secretary of State certifies that extraordinary circumstances require additional time. In the last Congress, Schiff authored a measure that would require the Attorney General to disclose the number of

citizens and residents detained and the standards used to designate individuals as enemy combatants. This passed the House as part of the Justice Department Authorization Bill.

Over 500 detainees are currently being held in Guantanamo Bay, most of them captured in Afghanistan after the U.S.-led invasion in 2001. Some detainees have been there for more than three years without being charged. To watch Congressman Schiff's speech on the House floor [please click here](#).

*Please do not reply to this unattended mailbox. If you would like to email me, [click here](#). If you would like to sign up for my e-mail list to continue receiving updates on issues and events important to you, [click here](#). If you would like to unsubscribe from my e-mail list, [click here](#).*